

Kairat Umarov for his service and friendship to our country, while serving as Kazakhstan's Ambassador to the United States.

For the past 25 years, Kazakhstan and the United States have developed an enduring relationship built on nuclear nonproliferation and security. This association has evolved to include a strong relationship on trade, economic integration, and the support of democracy. Since its independence, Kazakhstan has been a strategic partner to the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The diplomatic cooperation between our two countries has contributed to the reconstruction of Afghanistan and strengthened security in the Central Asia region—accomplishments that were greatly served by Ambassador Umarov's dedicated work.

Mr. Umarov has served as Ambassador of Kazakhstan to the United States since 2013, and his steady leadership over the past four years has enhanced ties between our two countries. Ambassador Umarov's focus on commercial and technological cooperation has solidified Kazakhstan's path as a future trade hub for the entire New Silk Road region. His significant contributions to the upcoming EXPO 2017 event will prove to be essential to its success. Ambassador Umarov's time in Washington has shown him to be a gracious and gifted diplomat, and although I am sad to see him leave, I am confident that he will remain a true champion for the people of Kazakhstan as he assumes his new duties on behalf of his country at the United Nations.

Mr. Speaker, I once again want to thank Ambassador Umarov for his hard work and friendship as Kazakhstan's Ambassador to the United States, and I wish him the best of luck on all his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF THE REVEREND  
RICHARD GAMMAGE

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 23, 2017*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding spiritual and community leader, the Reverend Richard Gammage, Pastor of New Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Macon, Georgia. Sadly, Reverend Gammage passed away on Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at the age of 85. A memorial service was held in his honor on Thursday, January 19, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. at his church in Macon, Georgia.

Richard Gammage was born in Sylvester, Georgia in 1931. He accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior at the young age of twelve. He was a member of Beulah Missionary Baptist Church and served in the various roles of deacon, Sunday school teacher, choir president and Chairman of the Sick Committee.

Always seeking to improve his craft of Christian ministry and discipleship, he furthered his education at Carver Bible College, the Morehouse School of Religion, and the Interdenominational Theological Center. He earned a Master's degree from Brown College of Transoral Science.

For the past 37 years, Reverend Gammage pastored the New Pleasant Grove Missionary

Baptist Church in Macon. He loved each member of his congregation, and they loved him back. He believed that in addition to existing in a building, the church should exist in a community. The church took pride in serving breakfast on Sunday mornings to many homeless people and people in need who were able to eat a good meal immediately after the early service.

In Reverend Gammage's many years of service, he ordained more than one hundred deacons, including seven women to preach. He served as President of the Evangelical Ministers Alliance for several years and most recently held the title of President Emeritus. Reverend Gammage also stood firm as a strong believer in Christian education, providing Bibles and other instructional materials to every individual who attended his Bible studies.

Reverend Gammage made a difference both in and out of the pulpit. He was a renowned and passionate community leader in Macon, Georgia. For more than three decades, he led the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom March in Macon. He also hosted forums at New Pleasant Grove during nearly every political election for candidates to discuss issues and their campaigns.

Acts 20:35 says, "I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" Truly, Reverend Gammage abided by this scripture, understanding his calling and purpose to serve God's people and his community.

Reverend Gammage achieved much in his life, but none of this would have been possible without the love and support of his wife, Myra Gammage, and their three children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife Vivian, and the more than 730,000 residents of the Second Congressional District of Georgia in extending our sincere condolences to Reverend Richard Gammage's family, friends, and followers during this difficult time. I pray that we may all be comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

TRIBUTE TO ELLYN MCKENZIE

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 23, 2017*

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ellyn McKenzie, Vice President of Government Affairs for Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers. She is retiring on January 31, 2017. She has served the organization beginning in 1997 and retires exactly upon her 20th anniversary date.

Ellyn started with the agency as a grant writer and project director for the agency's first two grants to support Environmental Justice Activities. Sixteenth Street's Department of Environmental Health was formed based upon those two grant projects: 1) to support a community-based approach to lead poisoning prevention and 2) to collect information and catalog information about and features of the neighborhood that could pose a hazard to the health of children. In fact, the Department of Environmental Health continues its work to

prevent lead poisoning, and has grown their environmental justice activities into successful sustainable re-development projects for Milwaukee's Menomonee Valley and Kinnickinnic River Corridor.

Ellyn transitioned to the position of Communications and Development Director as the agency expanded and upon her retirement held the title of Vice President of Government Affairs. She produced five successful fundraising events for Sixteenth Street's signature Celebrity Roast—the agency's once a year fundraiser. Honorees for events on her watch were for Milwaukee Buck's Coach George Karl, Milwaukee Brewer's President and Chairman Wendy Selig-Prieb, former Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson, Milwaukee developer Gary Grunau and Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle.

Ellyn produced 15 Annual Reports, a publication for donors, community partners and staff compiling successes, new challenges and strategic growth of the agency. She was also responsible for government relations activities for the agency over the years.

Prior to joining Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers, Ellyn held several positions in Wisconsin State government, serving as legislative assistant to the State Senate Organization Committee, as an aide to Wisconsin Governor Tony Earl and as coordinator for a statewide Energy Conservation Plan in the Department of Administration.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to know and work with Ellyn since her days in Wisconsin State Government. I join with friends and colleagues to congratulate her on her retirement. I wish her much success as she transitions into a different phase of her life. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Ellyn McKenzie and I am proud to call her a friend. The citizens of the Fourth Congressional District and the State of Wisconsin are privileged to have someone of her ability and dedicated service working on their behalf for so many years. I am honored for these reasons to pay tribute to Ellyn McKenzie.

HONORING ELK RIVER'S  
SPORTECH

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 23, 2017*

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Sportech in Elk River, for receiving a PACE Business Award from the Elk River Chamber of Commerce.

Every year the Elk River Chamber awards successful businesses in the area, and this year Sportech received the Employer of the Year Award.

Sportech maintains high spirits among their two hundred and fifty employees by providing flexible hours so they can spend time with their loved ones, giving them quality equipment to work with, and by raising overall morale with fun team building activities.

The happiness of their employees is surely the reason that Sportech produces quality products every year, making over two hundred million dollars last year alone.

The employees are the backbone of each and every company. They are the ones who work tirelessly to ensure that the business that